

# Washington Transportation Plan

## Phase 2: Developing the Constrained Plan

September 2004 - July 2005

### Adopt Strategies

In the fall of 2004 the Transportation Commission will adopt the strategies, which will establish the policy framework for developing the investment plan.

#### ► Adopt Strategies

#### ► Develop Investment Plan

#### ► Set Priorities

#### ► Adopt the Plan

### Develop Investment Plan

The Department of Transportation in cooperation with the Regional Transportation Planning Organizations will develop an investment plan to implement the strategies for our state's key transportation issues. These investments will vary by region and will reflect the appropriate regional response to implement the statewide strategies.

### Set Priorities

Because funding is limited and competition for this limited funding is keen, the Transportation Commission will prioritize the investment plan to be constrained to a reasonable level of revenue. This prioritization process will reflect, to the extent possible, stated regional priorities.

### Adopt the Plan

In the summer of 2005, the Transportation Commission will adopt the updated plan, which will include the constrained investment proposals, with state projects and state program recommendations, plus statewide policy recommendations needed to implement the plan. The updated plan will become the basis for the 2007-2009 Transportation budget proposal that the Transportation Commission will submit to the 2007 Legislature.

## Ways to Participate in the Outcome

- Regularly attend your respective Regional Transportation Planning Organization's meetings.
- Visit WTP on the Web: [www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/planning)
- Attend WTP workshops, conference presentations, meetings and forums.

Here are a few that are currently scheduled:

### Safety Conscious Planning Workshop

April 20th, 2004,

8:30 AM – 3:00 PM

Red Lion, SeaTac

### Planning Association of Washington Conference

May 14th, 2004

WTP Panel Session

Red Lion, Richland

## 2005 Update: Work Plan Overview

*“How can transportation serve our economy’s productivity, our communities’ livability, our ecosystem’s viability, and our citizens’ convenience?”*

Washington's Transportation Plan (WTP) is a blueprint for transportation programs and investment. The plan covers all modes of Washington's transportation system: roadways, ferries, public transportation, aviation, freight rail, passenger rail, marine ports and navigation, bicycles and pedestrians. The WTP is required by state and federal law to be regularly updated. The update currently underway will be adopted by the Transportation Commission in 2005, will cover the period 2007-2026, and will be the basis for an investment proposal to the legislature in 2007.

This folio outlines the work plan for the plan update. The first phase: developing and analyzing data about the transportation system, includes current and expected future conditions, the use for movement of people and goods, and the effects of the system on the economy and the environment. This baseline data is being stored online in a WTP Data Library, available in Spring 2004. The data will support development of effective strategies to address the key issues facing the future of our statewide transportation system. The strategies will form the basis for the second phase of the WTP update including identifying & prioritizing specific program investments that will result in a constrained transportation plan. (see back page).



**Washington State  
Department of Transportation**



**Washington State  
Transportation Commission**



# What is the Overall Process?

## Phase 1: Data Compilation, Analysis & Strategy Development

December 2003 – September 2004

### The Work Underway:

- ▶ Create the Statewide Transportation Data Library
- ▶ Analyze Statewide Trends & System Conditions
- ▶ Identify Key Strategic Issues & Develop Effective Strategies
- ▶ Share What We’ve Learned

### Create the Statewide Transportation Data Library

The update to the plan started in late 2003 with several concurrent activities primarily involving data collection and analysis. Special subject research and modal plan update efforts are taking place to fill the gaps in the current data and customer input readily available for this update. Examples of the modal efforts include the long-range plan for the Washington State Ferries, a Marine Cargo Forecast, and updating the Intercity Passenger Rail and Public Transportation Plan. The research efforts are topics that apply across modes and jurisdictional boundaries, such as but not limited to, statewide safety needs, congestion relief analysis, local roadway needs, habitat corridors and species diversity, freight customer interviews, and economic development.

Techniques for collecting data vary from reviewing census information to conducting focus groups and workshops. Traditional demographic and economic trend data will be compiled. In addition, freight, personal travel, congestion, safety, technology, and environmental trends will be included. These baseline facts and assessments will provide the context for developing the strategies of the plan. In several areas forecasted information will describe the outlook of the next twenty years.

### Analyze Statewide Trends & System Conditions

Identifying and understanding major trends and their implications to Washington’s economy and demands on the transportation system are critical to developing the Washington Transportation Plan update. The statewide transportation system includes all modes of travel and related facilities and services, regardless of ownership. The condition assessment being conducted for this plan update is a summary that will include information such as the number of lane miles of federal, tribal, state, and local roadways, the location of airports and rail lines, and the condition or health of the facilities for each mode of transportation. In addition background papers are being compiled on our state’s financial options, examining the relationship between growth management and transportation, and a summary of state and federal planning requirements.

### Identify Key Strategic Issues & Develop Effective Strategies

The focus of this update is organized into nine key strategic issue areas. Each fundamental issue relates in some way to all modes of the transportation system and its facilities and services. Understanding the interrelationships between these issues is essential to creating a plan that has an appropriate positive contribution to our state. This step in the process involves identifying the needs at the regional level with specific modal needs that have statewide significance. Strategies for addressing gaps and needs will be developed for each of the nine issue areas. (See key issues list on right.)

## Nine Key Statewide Transportation Issues

### System Preservation

*Fundamental issue:* What will it take to make sure that the elements of the transportation system that we take for granted today will still be in place when we need them in two, six or twenty years?

### System Efficiencies

*Fundamental issue:* How can we best work toward optimizing how efficiently we derive the benefits of our current transportation system facilities and those we are able to create in the future?

### Safety

*Fundamental issue:* How do we make transportation systems and facilities throughout the state safer for their users?

### Transportation Access

*Fundamental issue:* Where basic transportation services are indispensable for all citizens’ societal engagement, how is a “safety net” for transportation needs to be provided every citizen in every community?

### System Extensions

#### Bottlenecks and Chokepoints

a. What opportunities for investment in new facility and system assets can help address system chokepoints and bottlenecks? What are the most effective near-term solutions through expanding capacity to move people and goods in shorter and more reliable times?

#### Contributing to a Strong Economy and Good Jobs

b. What investments in new facility and system assets can help support the state’s economic vitality and strengthen the job picture?

#### Moving Freight

c. How are the special needs of freight movement to be incorporated into the state’s transportation plan?

#### Building Future Visions

d. What are the visions of transportation system futures - shared and unshared - that should shape today’s transportation planning to help create pathways to the future?

### Health and the Environment

*Fundamental issue:* How can transportation investments be developed, implemented and used in ways that at the same time enhance our citizens’ transportation goals and our citizens’ goals for healthy communities and a well-protected environment?

### Share What We’ve Learned

Throughout Phase 1 information will be shared on the Department’s web page as well as at workshops and meetings on various topics throughout the state. In addition, on September 21, 2004 the Washington State Transportation Commission will host an event that will serve as a milestone in the update process. This meeting of a variety of interests and transportation service and facility providers will provide an opportunity for a broader discussion of the data, the trends, the issues, and gaps and proposed strategies. This opportunity for review will also provide input to the Transportation Commission for Phase 2.